

XXXVIII.—*Descriptions of supposed new Birds from the Khási-Nágá Hill-ranges south of the Brahmaputra River, Assam.* By Major H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, F.Z.S. &c.

Garrulax nuchalis, n. sp.

Above, top of head to nape dark slaty grey, succeeded by a broad rich ferruginous collar an inch in breadth, which fades into the olive-green of the back. Wings and tail of a rather darker tint of olive, the latter tipped black; the first four primaries are edged hoary grey; the shoulder of wing has a rusty tinge. A narrow frontal band; the lores, with a narrow line over and below the eye, black; this is continued in a streak of dark rusty brown over the ear-coverts; a few white feathers border the black frontal band above. Chin black, extending a short way down the middle of throat; breast pale ashy, with a slight vinous tinge. Cheeks and ear-coverts pure white. Flanks and under tail-coverts dull olive-green. Bill black. Irides purple lake. Legs fleshy grey.

Length 10 inches, wing 4·25, tail 4·6, tarsus 1·7, bill at front 0·9.

This beautiful species was among a batch of birds lately received from and collected by Mr. M. T. Ogle of the Topographical Survey, in the Lhota-Nágá hills. It is the representative there of *G. chinensis*, but differs in possessing the broad ferruginous nape, and the neutral grey of the head is of a darker hue. In other respects it is identical, save in some minor points, such as:—the black of the throat does not extend so far down on to the upper breast; the lower breast is paler than in *chinensis*, and has a vinous tinge; the under tail-coverts are pure olivaceous with no ochraceous tint; and, lastly, the white of the cheek and ear-coverts extends in this new form further down the side of the neck.

On a careful comparison, made by myself and Lord Walden, of *Suya atrogularis* of the Darjeeling hills with specimens I had hitherto supposed to be exactly the same found on the Khási hills, the differences are so well marked that they are sufficient to separate them as a distinct race, to which I give the title *Suya khasiana*.

These differences are as follows:—

Suya atrogularis, Moore (of which eight specimens were examined),

- a. Is a greyer bird, with a decided tinge of olivaceous;
- b. None show pure white beneath;
- c. Thigh-coverts pale brown.

Suya khasiana, n. sp.

(fourteen examples compared),

- a. Has a general tinge of ferruginous throughout, which is particularly strong upon the forehead and wing ;
- b. Generally pure white on abdomen and centre of breast ;
- c. Thigh-coverts pure rufous ;
- d. The terminal white spots on the black feathers of the lower part of the neck are larger.

XXXIX.—*Note on the Genera Astacoides and Paranephrops.*

By EDWARD J. MIERS, Assistant in the Zoological Department, British Museum.

IN the 'Annals' for last month Professor J. Wood-Mason published a very interesting note "On the Mode in which the Young of the New-Zealand *Astacidae* attach themselves to the Mother." He states (p. 306) that he observed this peculiar mode of attachment in the young of "a female of *Astacoides zealandicus*," which, he adds in a footnote, "*= Paranephrops setosus*, Hutton;" and, in another footnote, he cites the genus *Paranephrops* of White as synonymous with *Astacoides* of Guérin-Ménéville. As it appears to me still uncertain to what species Professor Wood-Mason refers in his communication, the following observations may be of interest.

Guérin-Ménéville founded the genus *Astacoides*, in April 1839*, for a species of crayfish described as occurring very frequently in the rivers of Madagascar, to which he applied the name of *A. Goudotii*, after its discoverer M. Goudot. This species was noticed almost contemporaneously by M. Milne-Edward†, and subsequently described at greater length and well figured by him‡, under the name of *A. madagascariensis*. Of this species, unfortunately, no specimens are in the collection of the British Museum; but the published descriptions and figure suffice, I think, to show that the genus is well characterized by its robust form, powerful anterior legs, with broad hands and short palm, and the position of the antennæ, which are inserted *beneath* the antennules and are furnished with a small or rudimentary basal scale.

In the genus *Paranephrops* of White§, as exemplified in

* Revue Zoologique, ii. p. 109 (1840).

† L'Institut, p. 152 (1839).

‡ Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, ii. p. 35, pl. iii. figs. 1-5 (1841).

§ Zoological Miscellany, ii. p. 79 (1842).